

Series I
Correspondence,
1932-1973

Box 3, Folder 8

June 2, 1958 -
August 21, 1958

0124

June 2, 1958

Dear John:

This is to remind you of the dinner which I am giving at the Clambake Club, in honor of Vice Admiral and Mrs. Stuart H. Ingersoll, at 8:30 P. M. on Saturday, June 7th.

In the event circumstances prevent your attending, please, as soon as you can, notify me here at the Naval War College by telephone (Viking 7-2280, extension 7-546).

Looking forward to seeing you, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mr. John E. Rovensky
Bellevue Ave.
Newport, R. I.

0125

June 2, 1958

Dear Liz and Bode:

This is to remind you of the dinner which I am giving at the Clambake Club, in honor of Vice Admiral and Mrs. Stuart H. Ingersoll, at 8:30 P. M. on Saturday, June 7th.

In the event circumstances prevent your attending, please, as soon as you can, notify me here at the Naval War College by telephone (Viking 7-2280, extension 7-546).

Looking forward to seeing you, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mr. and Mrs. Howard W. Taylor, Jr.
Monk Road
Madwyne, Penna.

0 1 2 6

June 2, 1958

Dear Henry:

This is to remind you of the dinner which I am giving at the Clambake Club, in honor of Vice Admiral and Mrs. Stuart H. Ingersoll, at 8:30 P. M. on Saturday, June 7th.

In the event circumstances prevent your attending, please, as soon as you can, notify me here at the Naval War College by telephone (Viking 7-2280, extension 7-546).

Looking forward to seeing you, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Honorable Henry C. Wilkinson
68 Old Fort Rd.
Newport, R. I.

0127

June 4, 1958

Dear Isabel and Henry:

This is to remind you of the dinner which I am giving at the Clambake Club, in honor of Vice Admiral and Mrs. Stuart H. Ingersoll, at 8:30 P. M. on Saturday, June 7th.

In the event circumstances prevent your attending, please, as soon as you can, notify me here at the Naval War College by telephone (Viking 7-2280, extension 7-546).

Looking forward to seeing you, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral and Mrs. H. E. Eccles
101 Washington Street
Newport, R. I.

0128

June 4, 1958

Dear Muriel:

This is to remind you of the dinner which I am giving at the Clambake Club, in honor of Vice Admiral and Mrs. Stuart H. Ingersoll, at 8:30 P. M. on Saturday, June 7th.

In the event circumstances prevent your attending, please, as soon as you can, notify me here at the Naval War College by telephone (Viking 7-2280, extension 7-546).

Looking forward to seeing you, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mrs. Harold A. Sands
155 Rhode Island Ave.
Newport, R. I.

0129

June 5, 1958

Dear Rosalie:

This is to remind you of the dinner which I am giving at the Clambake Club, in honor of Vice Admiral and Mrs. Stuart H. Ingersoll, at 8:30 P. M. on Saturday, June 7th.

In the event circumstances prevent your attending, please, as soon as you can, notify me here at the Naval War College by telephone (Viking 7-2280, extension 7-546).

Looking forward to seeing you, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Mrs. Rosalie P. Altemus
Bellevue Court
Newport, R. I.

0130

6 June 1958

Dear Captain Droulihet:

I am forwarding under separate cover the necessary data from which you can compile the weather data for the area embraced by the diagrams to be used in the Battle for Leyte Gulf, Volume V, Battle of Surigao Strait.

Included under separate cover is (a) a carbon copy of Volume V, as completed to date; (b) weather legend; (c) typewritten sheets of compiled weather data for October 23rd and 24th; (d) a diagram for October 22nd which you did for Volume III to serve as a guide, and (e) a collection of diagrams for Volume V (October 23rd and 24th, and tactical diagrams of the Battle of Surigao Strait) upon which to place the weather conditions. In this connection it is requested that the number of sipatone types be confined to indicate the four weather classifications used in Volume III.

Of the included diagrams, Diagrams B and C are for 24-hour periods and extend from Japan to New Guinea, while Diagrams D through O cover small areas in the Mindanao Sea and Surigao Strait and cover short periods of time. The weather at the southern tip of Panaon Island appears to have been particularly bad, as PT's 150, 194 and 196 did not sight anything until about 0500 October 25th, and the USHIO (SECOND Striking Force, Diagram I) nearly went aground at 0318.

As in the past the paragraphs of Volume V have been marked with a red "W" for ease in locating the weather comments and these "W"'s are on the following pages: 23-1, 23-4, 2, 13, 17, 64, 67, 73, 74, 84, 90, 94, 107, 108, 112, 116, 126, 128, 154, 170, 177, 192, 193 and 349.

With best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Captain P. R. Droulihet, USN
Director Naval Weather Service Division
Room 5E589, Pentagon
Washington 25, D.C.

0131

June 6, 1958

Dear Doctor Sprague:

I am enclosing herewith a check which I have delayed sending you as I wanted to write you a letter at the same time.

As you know I am to be retired on July 31st and as I wrote you before I am most anxious not to lose the physical disability which I presently have. This disability is sixty per cent.

I spoke to the head of the Naval Hospital, Captain Wirthlin. He says there is nothing to it—that all I would do is go back on the retired list and maintain my physical disability. The Disbursing Officer here, however, is a little concerned about it, as the orders are most unusual. The orders state, "Your orders of 31 May 1949 are further modified in that when directed by the President, Naval War College, Newport, Rhode Island on 31 July 1958, you will regard yourself detached from all duties and will proceed to your home, etc.", and they also state that I will take a physical examination.

Captain McLaughlin told me the other day that he would feel very pleased if I could obtain a letter from you indicating that I have not improved over the condition I had when I was retired. As you will recall you stated at that time that I was not less than eighty-five per cent disabled, and the other day, when I visited you, you stated that the only good thing I had in my life was the advanced age of my parents. Since this was exactly what you had said nine years before, I feel confident that my physical condition has in no way improved. I don't think it has improved because in the summer with the relatively high humidity which Newport has, I usually have a most difficult time. Dr. McLaughlin said he thought maybe I ought to have more physical disability than I have. I am not anxious to attempt to change this in any way if there is any chance it will have any adverse effect on my present disability.

I am hoping to go to Washington on Sunday the week commencing June 15th and I will discuss some of these matters with BuPers and BuMed, and if necessary, the Judge Advocate General's office. I had to battle to get myself under the new pay bill, and I am certainly going to battle now to maintain my percentage, if such a battle is necessary.

0132

I am developing minor ailments. As of now--at least I hope they are minor--I have a pain in my right arm, apparently from the joint. It has been examined by experts, one of them being Dr. Witte from Chelsea Hospital, and they are trying to find out the cause and to endeavor to relieve it. We feel that we may have found the source.

I would say that as of this moment my physical condition today is below that what it was when I retired. This is because I have worked so hard to finish the last two volumes on a rush basis that I seem to show it.

We have just completed our Global Strategy Discussions. It was very interesting but also wearing. These Global Strategy Discussions last for one week and are attended by about 100 prominent civilians as well as 100 Senior Reserve Officers (these are here for two weeks). It is a very important phase of our existence here. The Army and Air Force War Colleges are following us in this regard.

I am going down to New York today to receive a degree of Doctor of Letters from Long Island University. When I have done this I will be better able to talk to you as one "doctor" to another.

One of these fellows told me a very funny joke. He said he attended the Republican Convention in 1940 which nominated Mr. Wilkie. Mr. Joe Pew of Philadelphia was the mastermind. It appears that a colored delegation from the south came in to see Mr. Pew and that after the greetings Mr. Pew said, "All right boys who are you going to vote for?" The spokesman for the group said, "Well Mr. Pew, some of us is voting for Mr. Taft, and some of us is voting for Mr. Dewey, but all of us is "for sale"."

With best regards, I am, your old patient,

R. W. BATES

Dr. Howard B. Sprague, M.D.
1180 Beacon Street
Brookline 46, Mass.

0133

June 12, 1958

Dear Dick:

I certainly enjoyed the privilege of being your guest at Brookville and of being honored by you and your university with a degree of Doctor of Letters. I thought the whole affair was delightful and I deplore my necessity of having to depart before the ceremonies were completed. However, as it turned out I might have been able to stay for a few minutes more as your driver, Lambe, got me off in fine style.

I was quite impressed with the large number of people at the Convocation and I was also impressed with the large number of professors whom I presume were wearing their doctor's robes.

In the plane on my return to Newport I read in the paper that W. Harold Hoffman had died. You probably remember him because he had an Australian wife (Eileen) and lived on Red Cross Avenue. Unfortunately he was a little too wealthy for his own good. His friends think that this was responsible for his demise by a heart attack.

When I read this article I was concerned because I thought that a bunch of his very close friends in Newport would drop out of the dinner which I was giving for the President of the Naval War College. Actually not one person did drop out and the dinner turned out to be an overwhelming success. So, you can see how pleased I am that on this day I had two great successes. One, and far the more important, the doctor's degree from you and Long Island University; the other a successful party at the Glambake Club. Admiral and Mrs. Ingersoll were very pleased and so was I, because the new steward there did a fine job.

0134

I am enclosing herewith clippings that were taken out of the local Newport paper commenting on my investiture.

I certainly hope that you have a wonderful trip to the Coast. You and Helen are a wonderful pair, and I appreciate your continuing interest in me.

With best regards to all my friends in La Jolla, not the least of whom are Spike and Kay Fabrica, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

Admiral E. L. Connelly, USN (Ret)
President's Quarters
C.W. Post College Annex
Long Island University
Brookville, Long Island, N. Y.

0135

June 12, 1958

Dear Jack:

I plan to be in New York on Wednesday, June 18th. I will be in Washington for two days trying to clear up my retirement, to see Admiral Felt, and to discover in a mild way what should be done with some of our papers around here. I am planning to stop off in New York on the way back and at present should arrive there early in the afternoon of the 18th and should be leaving about three or four hours later. I thought, that while in New York, I might make contact with you. Of course I realize that since you have become a great traveller the chance of your being there is not great; yet again it may be.

I can tell you now that I couldn't have been more surprised when I received a letter from Long Island University informing me that I was to receive a doctorate, nor could I have been more pleased. The affair was conducted on Saturday morning in Brookville and was perfectly lovely. I liked everything about it except that (a) I had to leave early to get back to Newport as I was giving a dinner for Admiral Ingersoll, which, by the way, was very successful, and (b) I missed you.

You were heavily missed at GSD this year. Many people asked, "Where is Bergen?" I could only say that you were last heard from in Hong Kong and I had no idea when, if ever, you would return. Needless to say the pool tables ~~meant~~ when they found that they were not to be played on by you. The discussions this year were tip top and everybody was thoroughly interested. This was one of the better years!

With best regards to you and to Mary, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral J. J. Bergen, USNR
40 Wall Street
New York, N. Y.

0136

June 19, 1958

Manager
University Club
1135 16th St., N. W.
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

I must say that I was somewhat concerned upon my visit to the University Club these past several days to discover that the dining room charges had suddenly increased quite markedly with no increase in the quality of the table. I am not being critical of the quality as it is quite good, but when one pays extra, one expects something extra, not only in quality if it is possible, but also in the manner in which the dishes are prepared. I saw no change in either of these items, but I did note a marked increase in my charges.

I am, therefore, sending herewith a couple of menus from my club in New York--the New York Yacht Club. You will note that No. 4, which is roughly what I had on Tuesday morning last, i.e., I had a tiny cup of orange juice, two poached eggs and one small slice of Canadian bacon, and a piece of dry toast. My bill for this was \$1.30. This corresponds with No. 4 of the New York Yacht Club, which is \$1.10. Yesterday morning I had a piece of melon which was too green and which I returned, and then was brought another piece of melon which was also pretty green. There was no choice; it was either green or it was very overripe. Then I had one poached egg and one piece of dry toast with no tea, coffee or milk. My charges for this were \$.95. This does not correspond to any of the New York Yacht Club menus. I recall the bill had one egg, one piece of dry toast--\$.70. Your hostess tried to change this to an ala carte situation, but the waitress had not done so.

For your information I find that I am not alone in these comments, but that some of the guests seem to think that something has happened. The waitresses were concerned over the reduced number of persons who now dine there.

I am not writing this letter to the President of the Club, and I am not endeavoring to create a rumpus. I am merely endeavoring to see if you can get these matters on an even keel.

With hopes that you will see some value in these comments, I am,

Very sincerely,

0137

June 19, 1958

Dear Rollo:

This is just a note to tell you how much I enjoyed being your guest at luncheon with the "top brass" of which you are a fine member. It was most pleasant and most kind. I can see that you fellows are very busy down there and that you don't have very much time to yourselves.

My trip to Washington was quite successful in that I learned a lot of things and have started a couple which will be helpful to others. One item had to do with whether or not a "permanent" physical disability is in fact "permanent". The Army and the Air Force say that it is "permanent". The Navy is not entirely clear on it. It is my understanding that this will be finally cleared up this week.

I am sorry that they are closing up this job before we were able to complete the study of the Layte operations. I had hoped to go carefully into the major decisions, but, alas, just as they were coming up for discussion my section was told to fold.

With best regards and many thanks, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Vice Admiral Ralph E. Wilson, USN
Room 4E606, Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

0138

June 19, 1958

Dear Captain Edward E.:

I certainly enjoyed my talk with you and I enjoyed seeing an old friend again.

I am sorry if I have caused you any unnecessary trouble because of the inquiries I have been making, but, as you know, I never let a thing drop unless it is a hot potato.

After talking to you I went over to the JAG's office and there I saw a Commander Davies. This officer was not too familiar with the Retirement Problem and was concerned lest he make a mistake. So he asked me to submit my queries in writing. This I agreed to do, but when I went over to see Admiral Donald Varian in DOD Admiral Varian said, "Don't write to Commander Davies, but let us handle it here". The question at issue, of course, was whether a "permanent" disability is in fact "permanent". In other words, can a fellow who had been retired physically and has been given a "permanent" disability be re-examined and given a lesser disability. Admiral Varian called the JAG of the Army and the JAG of the Air Force, and they said definitely not; that a "permanent" disability was in fact "permanent" and could only be added to, and never subtracted from. This, of course, was the opinion of Mr. Gartley, a legal aide in the Office of the Comptroller of the Navy. So, there you are! According to Admiral Varian a decision will be forthcoming tomorrow Friday, from the General Counsel of the DOD.

You will be interested to know that coming back in the plane I encountered our good friend, Dr. Howard B. Sprague, my heart specialist. He had with him another former President of the American Heart Association. They had been on a heart conference in Washington and were enroute to a heart conference with Dr. Paul Dudley White, the President's specialist, in New York. I told Dr. Sprague

0139

my problems and he said that even though he considered I was certainly at least as disabled as the Navy had determined he wouldn't challenge any PEB unless he was sure that "permanent" meant "permanent". By inference he implied, and this was concurred in by the other former President of the American Heart Association, that PEB's do not necessarily recognize fully the medical implications of whatever case they are handling. Since my sixty per cent is safe it is my plan to sit tight, and to do nothing until I hear the final decision on the original question as to whether a "permanent" disability is in fact "permanent".

With best regards to you and many thanks for your kindnesses, and for the assistance rendered by yourself and Lt. Pfau, and with hopes that I have in no way embarrassed you but have helped you in the end, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Captain E. E. Hogan, MC, USN
Room 1-D, Temporary "D" Bldg.
6th and Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington 25, D. C.

0140

*I thought
this would
interest you.
Brooks Harlow.*

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON

June 23, 1958

Dear Brooks:

On returning from a week end of Defense Conferences at Quantico, I was pleased to find your letter of June 18th.

I was especially gratified to learn of your satisfaction with your tour of Navy duty at the War College in Newport. The continuing interest of people like you in our Defense establishment is of very real value to the country. I will see to it that Admiral Ingersoll's superiors learn of your complimentary report on this tour of duty.

I have noted your comment regarding the high quality of the history writing work done by Commodore Bates. Of course, I am not familiar with the decision with respect to his retirement, but will see that those associated with me in the Navy Department know of your recommendation that Commodore Bates be retained on duty until he can complete his work on the historical record of the Battle for Leyte.

I find that classmates from the Class of 1925 are good correspondents of mine -- this morning having included not only yourself but also Jack Roots and Steve Koshland. My thanks to you and to all of my other friends, in and out of the Class of '25, who are supporting our efforts for the improved defense of the country.

Camilla and I send our best to Alice and to you.

Sincerely,



Mr. A. Brooks Harlow
135 Broadway
New York, New York

0141

June 24, 1958

Dear Harold:

In accordance with your suggestion I am mailing to you today that portion of the Battle of Surigao Strait which we have completed as of today. You will note that this differs somewhat from what we sent you before in that a portion of the operations of the preceding two days has been included. This is because Volume IV of the Battle for Leyte Gulf which was to have covered in part the operations from the completion of Volume III through 1830, October 24th, when the Battle of Surigao Strait really started, was not even attempted. It had been my plan to tackle this volume simultaneously with the Battle of Surigao Strait, but the closing out orders to this section caused us to "cease and desist".

I hope that you won't find this preliminary data regarding the operations of the various commanders difficult. I haven't attempted here to go into a discussion of the accuracy or inaccuracy of the commanders' decisions but more to give the general sequence of events.

In the Battle of Surigao Strait proper I hope to obtain from you comments concerning the handling principally of the destroyers. You will note that they did not coordinate their attacks; that even in a division which divided itself into two sections there was no attempt to coordinate the sections. This was due largely to the fact that the various destroyer squadrons had not operated together at all and night attack exercises had generally been put aside.

I would appreciate it, if you have the time, if you would check some of the destroyer discussions to see if you concur. However, in so doing, remember that this was in 1944.

It was wonderful to see you here and I am sorry that you are out there, which, in many ways, is far away. However, it is a big job, and if handled well can mean a lot to us, for the Reserves are important.

Your presence is already missed in this area!

With best regards to you and your beloved wife, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

Rear Admiral Harold T. Deuterman, USN ~~Ret.~~
Commander Naval Reserve Training Command
Omaha, Nebraska

0142

June 24, 1958

Dear Ralph:

This is to tell you how much I appreciate your letter of 20 June. I haven't heard from you for a long time, but I have asked about you. In fact I was in Washington the other day and went up to the Bethesda Naval Hospital to see Swede Haslett who had undergone an operation for the removal of one lung. Ibby was there. I brought up the question as to whether they had seen you and I think they said "not for some time". Swede is not in good shape. The loss of the lung was due to cancer and, of course, the doctors won't know for some time whether they succeeded in removing it all. Ibby is holding up very well and I think is demonstrating what I always thought about her, i.e., that she is a remarkable woman. Swede, I think, is much better than he was. However, his mental attitude, which was reported as not good, seemed to be pretty good to me. Let's hope that he recovers fully!

As regards the folding of this section I am sorry to say that the decision seems to be final. It is too bad because I had quite a good staff here, most of whom would have remained for another year. However, somebody knifed it from behind the door. I have never gotten the whole story! You are quite right about the importance of this work but it will take some time to prove it. The modern officers seem so busy with their day-to-day responsibilities that they do not have enough time to devote to the study of their profession.

I am glad to hear that you and Audrey are enjoying it down there, but I am sorry to hear that you think that your job is just a "little" job. "That ain't the way I heered it".

0143

Newport is getting along very well and looking forward to the yacht races. In fact 113 yachts took off on the Bermuda race and there will be more later. The America's Cup race will, of course, be the highlight.

I think your successor enjoys it here. Both he and Sally are quite popular. In many ways it is a tough job, particularly these days, with the problem connected with that refinery. It has not as yet been settled.

Slim Ingersoll and his wife are down at the small place they own in Virginia. He is on leave and is endeavoring to do some repair work to the place. I think that they like the War College work now and are happy to be here. In my mind they are quite an addition both to the College and to the Community.

So, all is well!

Finally, did you know that Long Island University had awarded me a degree of Doctor of Letters with a wonderful citation. That Admiral (Dick) Conolly is some man!

Once again let me thank you for your letter I appreciate it. You always were a great fellow.

With best regards to you both, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral Ralph E. Earle, USN (Ret)
Office of the Business Manager and Comptroller
Duke University
Durham, North Carolina

June 27, 1958

Dear Ibbey and Swede:

I was extremely pleased to visit with you at the hospital in Bethesda, although I must say that your presence there, Swede, had been quite a blow to me until I saw you and realized that although the operation you had undergone was quite serious, your will to victory was so strong as to insure your prompt return to health.

I am sorry that you feel it necessary to sell your home in Chapel Hill and live in Washington. After one has lived in a place for a long time it is a little hard to shake "the dirt from the roots". However, I think that you will find that you have more Navy friends--more real friends--in Washington than you had in Chapel Hill, and that you will find the whole situation much better.

I did an interesting thing in Washington. I worked with the various departments on the best method of handling the problems before me, notably the new pay bill and my own physical situation. The results were quite good and I am hoping that as a result of my visit there will be a change for the better in the Navy Department's interpretation of the retirement laws. I will not attempt to go into any discussion of this, but both the Army and Air Force JAG's had one solution and the Navy, at least temporarily, has another. I think that this is wrong because I think that all interpretations based on the same law should be the same.

The weather has suddenly improved here and things are much better than they were. We have had pretty bad weather over recent months but today for some reason things seem vastly improved, at least to me. In fact I feel strong enough to heave a ball through the window.

0145

For your information and verification of what I have told you before, this office will fold as of 31 July. Whether I will be in the Newport area for any length of time thereafter I don't know. But, I am hoping to remain until the late fall. Except for this I have no plans nor do I want any.

I certainly hope that you, Swede, will quickly return to health, and that you, Ibbey, will have a lessening of the tensions which are ever on you because of your husband and your family. I suppose that all wives and mothers have these problems, more or less!

With best wishes to you both, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Captain and Mrs. E. E. Hazlett,
U. S. Naval Hospital
National Naval Medical Center
Bethesda, Maryland

0146

June 27, 1958

Dear Admiral Spruance:

I hope that you will be interested to see this clipping which I am enclosing herewith. As you will remember your daughter had three heavy beaux. One of them was Tom Hickok, now deceased; one, Jerry Bogart, became her husband; the other was Bob Webber. Whether it is true or not, some of us felt that Webber was so upset at Margaret's choice of Jerry that he resigned to become a priest in the Jesuit order of the Roman Catholic Church, while some of us felt his choice of the priesthood was due to his violent opposition to Communism. The best answer is probably that it was a combination of the two items referred to above.

For your information my office is being folded as of 31 July--in fact it is disappearing by pieces--so, the World War II Battle Evaluation Group will be no more. I am somewhat disappointed about this as I have not completed my study of Leyte--in fact I have only finished four volumes out of the probable seven. However, the Navy Department claims that their needs for my personnel and the cost of my operation require the folding. Of course this is most doubtful!

What I am going to do then I don't know. I am not particularly interested about a job although it may well be that I will have to do something just to keep my hand in. However, because of all this I will not be in California this summer and probably will not be out there until late fall. When I get there I will check in on you and at least see how you, Swede, Judge and Keith, among others, are getting on.

I saw your friend Admiral Harry Yarnell and he is a lot better. For a while his wife was pretty ill and he got ill with her. But, now that she has fully recovered he is "back in battery".

0147

I was visited Wednesday by Captain Puleston of the Class of '05. He is a big laugh and he had the place in an uproar all afternoon.

The social life in Newport is beginning to get underway. Most people who plan to be here for the summer have arrived, and as they have little else to do but entertain, they are working pretty hard at it. I think that any of your friends you might mention are here.

If I can do anything for you here in the next little while a word from you is all that is necessary and I will do my best.

With best regards to you and Margaret, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Admiral Raymond A. Spruance, USN (Ret)
P. O. Box 192
Pebble Beach, Calif.

0148

July 2, 1958

Dear Hindman:

Since I wrote my letter of May 9th I have received no comment from you whatsoever. This is discouraging because I have wanted to help you. I don't know why you haven't replied because your reconsideration for selection is fast approaching.

I am wondering whether you have succeeded in getting your Admirals there to do something about your case. It seems to me that, despite the fact that you apparently had been out of circulation before you came to the Naval War College, you recovered beautifully with that air squadron in San Diego and also as executive officer of a first line carrier. Once again I repeat what they told me in Washington, i.e., that your record was fine in every way. So, there you are!

Finally, I stick to my previous statement that if you can get your Admiral there to take a strong stand it will be helpful. I had hoped that Vice Admiral Ingersoll (President of the Naval War College) might be on your board, but instead of that he is on the Admirals' board and, therefore, will not be available.

With best regards to you and to your wife,
I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Commander Stanley E. Hindman, USN
Executive Officer
U.S. Naval Air Station
Corpus Christi, Texas

0149

July 3, 1958

Dear Howard:

I notice in the local press that you have been designated as one of those Laymen authorized to occupy the Pulpit of a Baptist Church, to officiate at the serving of the Lord's Supper and to baptize candidates.

This is a great tribute to your high moral character, mental power and personality. Certainly many people are familiar with the Bible, and many people can make speeches, but very few are licensed by any church to replace, even though temporarily, the Minister.

I am sure all of the "boys in the backroom" appreciate this high honor which has been conferred upon you. All of us wish you well in the accomplishment of the mission which is here clearly assigned to you, and all of us feel enriched by the association.

With best regards and congratulations, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Commander Howard Cole, USN
2 Sunset Hill
Middletown, R. I.

0150

July 3, 1958

Dear Ted:

I received your last card with a great deal of interest and was particularly pleased to see that you are very happy in what you are doing. I realize that you have no particular job, but when people reach our age they are not supposed to have jobs. They are supposed to be able to relax and to enjoy the "good life" as a result of their labors.

You asked me what I am going to do. I will tell you—I am not going to do anything!—at least for the present. I realize that I am a very hard worker and have given largely of my life and substance to that, and I have enjoyed working and I do enjoy working, but there comes a time. I shall retire from the service in my forty-ninth year in the Navy. This is quite a long time and far longer than most people serve. You are still in the Reserve and you may, after all, be the "Last of the Mohicans". I won't quarrel with you about it, although, very frankly, I think I am the last, because since I am retired my chances of being recalled to active duty are greater than yours. However, as I said before, if you choose to be the "Last of the Mohicans", be it!

My present plans are to remain here until about October. At that time I will have decided what I am going to do for the time being. Presently I am on two or three committees in town, among which are the English Speaking Union, Music Festival and Boys' Club, any one of which can slay me if I let it. I may be working at the College after 31 July assisting Captain Titus of my office who will be the "Last of the Mohicans" here. We are finishing Surigao Strait and the work load is terrific. However, our "product" will certainly measure up to the high standard of our other volumes.

I suppose you know that I received a degree of Doctor of Letters from Long Island University. This was awarded by Admiral Conolly who said, "the University is awarding this to you, not because of your war record which is very distinguished, but because of your intellectual achievement". I am sending you herewith a copy of my citation which, as you can see, covers about everything. I am extremely pleased about this because it shows that I am leaving office with the high approval of the President of Long Island University. As a matter of interest I am now in "Who's Who in America", "Who's Who in the East", "Who knows What" and "American Scholars". I am not telling this to you out of any vanity, but to indicate the accomplishments in this office and the rotten futility of cancelling the whole project.

0151

Sometime after I retire I will come down and see you. We will have a little fun in your city, although I am hoping to go to Canada also and see what I can find up there to amuse me for a little while. From this you can see that I am all ready to go! I am wondering whether I am going to be able to survive my new routine! Maybe I will have to marry a "Mamma" who will put me to work!

With best regards to an old friend, from another old friend, I am,

Very sincerely,

Commander Edward Breed, USNR
165 West School Lane
Philadelphia 44, Penna.

0152

July 18, 1958

Dear Don:

I appreciated receiving the Assistant General Counsel's opinion on retirement disability. It is highly illuminating and surely correct. However, until the Navy makes a decision in this matter I am reluctant to do anything about it. I am going to speak to Admiral Ingersoll about it when he gets back here—as you perhaps know he is on a board in Washington, and may have to go back down next week. My retirement is the week following (Thursday, July 31st).

As regards the physical disability I would like to follow the advice of the doctors at the Naval Hospital who think I am entitled to more than I have now. This surprises my friends who say, "Why, you look fine!"; to which I reply that, the day he died Lynde McCormick looked fine too—better than I do—and yet he was dead within twelve hours. My heart specialist—a very famous one—Howard B. Sprague, in Boston, says that in heart cases looking well is of no importance and no criterion. So, there you are!

I certainly hope that you are enjoying yourself down there despite this situation in the Middle East, and I hope also that if anything of importance looms you will be given a job commensurate with your abilities. Maybe you will get an amphibious job after all!

Whether or not anything comes out of all this, I want you to know that I appreciate your interest and the efficient manner with which you have accomplished what you have. At least people who follow us will, I feel sure, have a better break than I am having at present.

With warmest regards to you and your beloved wife, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

Rear Admiral D. C. Varian, USN
Room 3A886, Pentagon
Washington 25, D. C.

0153

July 7, 1958

Dear Captain Renard:

On 5 June we sent you a letter, copy herewith enclosed, relative to the operations of CTG 73.7 in the Leyte Operation. We are awaiting anxiously to hear from you as you are the final link in our source material.

We have had some of the pilots concerned in this office and we have discussed matters with them. The principle one, Commander Sillers, is at Quonset Point. Also, your former Chief of Staff, Captain Eisenbach, is here at the Naval War College. Captain Eisenbach has very little to offer, spent some days here with us, and is highly interested, but doesn't seem to have the facts. Commander Sillers has given us some information which checks with that from the Japanese side.

One point of enormous concern is the fact that ten planes arrived Leyte Gulf on the afternoon of October 23rd, which planes were sent down to Himmangan Bay (an anchorage adjacent to Surigao Strait) where there were two tenders, the HALF MOON and SAN CARLOS. Your flag was in the SAN CARLOS. From the dispatches it appears as if the HALF MOON tended all ten planes. Do you happen to know whether this is really true? This is a particularly important point, as pointed out in the basic letter. You were ordered to send out five planes and only three went. Could it have been that only three out of the ten planes were ready for action, and, if so, what was the cause? Actually your final orders called for five planes to be sent out at night and two in the morning, making a total of seven.

It was suggested by Commander Sillers that perhaps the squadrons that flew into Leyte Gulf on the 23rd (VPB's 33 and 34) were supposed to be tended by both AVP's, but in the press of the developing situation only one squadron was able to be utilized for the night search since the SAN CARLOS had departed Himmangan Bay early in the morning (0821) for SAN PEDRO Bay about forty miles to the north. He admits that the idea is largely conjecture and it seems highly unlikely to us. However, another point is the fact that no planes of VPB-34 were flown on that evening. Could this also have been due to maintenance requirements?

7 I am sending you herewith my first draft of the operations of your command for this day for my volume V.

0154

Since the time remaining to complete this analysis is limited, it is requested that you reply as soon as practicable.

With best regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, USN (Ret)

Captain Jack C. Renard, USN
Staff, Commander Fleet Air, JACKSONVILLE
U. S. Naval Air Station
Jacksonville, Fla.

0155

July 7, 1958

Dear Wilmarth:

This letter is to thank you for your continued interest in my World War II Battle Evaluation Group. However, I don't think there is much that can be done about it at present. A decision has been made, which decision they are going to stand by, I think, despite the fact that many officers including the Commanders-in-Chief, Atlantic and Pacific Fleets, among others, think that the decision is wrong and that the project should be completed.

The Secretary of the Naval War College, the other day, wanted to bet me two to one that my group would be reopened within six months. Maybe it will and maybe it won't, but it certainly should be, because the final battle (Leyte Gulf) that I am working on is not finished. Unfortunately I have just reached the point where I am about to discuss the major decisions, out of which I was going to produce the major battle lessons, but it seems that I will not be able to do that.

I look forward to seeing you when you come down here. You and that wonderful wife of yours, Annie Burr, have always been very friendly to me and I appreciate greatly my friendship with you.

I have seen a fair amount of Janet and Hugh D. In fact I was at a luncheon Saturday and sat beside Janet. Last night I was at a little birthday party for Neo Grosvenor, given by Neo, attended largely by children, and Janet and Hugh D. were there as well.

There is not much new to report. The situation everywhere seems quiet and I hope it is with you.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

R. W. BATES

0156

July 11, 1958

Dear Captain Renard:

Since writing to you and sending you the papers, which, I hope you have received by now, I came across a statement about the operations of the Black Cats by one of your pilots, Captain (then Lieutenant Commander) Vadym V. Utgoff, Executive Officer of VPB 34. Utgoff told about how, at this time, the PBY's had been attacked by Japanese bombers and how they had flooded the gasoline tanks. I have accepted this as probably true because I couldn't imagine anything more plausible for the putting out of commission of the PBY's.

Although you were apparently up at San Pedro Bay at this time you may have some knowledge of this incident. I shall appreciate your reactions.

For your information, your former Chief of Staff, Captain C. R. Eisenbach, is here and he approves of this writeup although he can't remember it. There is nothing on it in any of the war diaries or action reports. I have now sent for the deck logs of the HALF MOON and the SAN CARLOS and am hoping that they may have something on it.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, USN (Ret)

Captain J. C. Renard, USN
Staff, Commander Fleet Air JACKSONVILLE
U.S. Naval Air Station
Jacksonville, Fla.

0157

July 17, 1958

Dear Mr. Cloud:

I am in receipt of your letter of 24 June and have been somewhat delayed in replying to it for unavoidable reasons. In replying I should like to state that my office is in no way connected with matters of this kind. I am analysing the major naval battles of World War II and am not providing research in other areas. However, your questions interested me to a degree and I am, therefore, replying to a degree:

(a) As regards the brief history and present ranks of the U.S. Navy and the navies of the world, I think that you can get most of that information from the Bureau of Naval Personnel of the Navy Department who should be familiar with the ranks, etc., of the various nations. It is of interest, however, that in our navy the rank of Commodore, until 1862, was purely "spot" or "honorary". I have seen letters addressed to men who were called Commodore in our early days and these letters were addressed as Commodore. Yet the facts are that it was not a regular rank as such. However, in 1862, in the early days of the Civil War, Congress established the rank of Commodore and the rank existed in our Navy from that time until 1899 when it was abandoned as a rank on the active list. Actually both Oliver Hazard Perry and Matthew Calbraith Perry, who are known to history as Commodores, are listed as having died as Captains. Then, in 1943, the rank was restored and "spot" Commodores existed for temporary service until after the War when the rank was once again abandoned. I am the only Commodore presently on active duty in the Navy and I have been on active duty since 1949. At present moment I have orders to return to the retired list at the end of this month at which time there will be no Commodores on active duty in the U. S. Navy.

(b) As regards the item referring to the legend of Elizabeth Island, your attention is invited to the fact that Henry R. Wagner's book, "Sir Francis Drake's Voyage Around the World", is generally considered to be the best work on this voyage. This work shows that at the time that Drake made his voyage there was much copying of accounts from one writer or another and that errors crept in. In fact navigation was very crude and no exact methods were available for keeping track of where the ships had been. Charts of the time were very inexact and in part imaginary. While Latitude could be determined with reasonable accuracy Longitude was at best a guess. In this book Wagner concludes that Drake probably landed on Henderson Island (Latitude 55°-38'S, Longitude 69°-00'W) which is about sixty miles northwest of Cape Horn. Although Drake asserted that there was a wide strait or open sea south of this island, either no one would believe him or it was suppressed as a state secret for many years.

0158

As a matter of interest the Spanish Viceroy had the Longitude of Mexico City determined about 1550 by the most accurate means which at that time was an eclipse. The result was about twenty degrees in error and an error which was not discovered for nearly 100 years.

Attached herewith is a brief bibliography referring to Sir Francis Drake.

With best regards, I am,

Sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Mr. Preston E. Cloud, Jr.
U. S. Department of the Interior
Geological Survey
338 U.S. National Museum
Washington 25, D. C.

Partial bibliography:

1. Sir Francis Drake's Voyage Around The World, Henry R. Wagner
Published by John Howell, San Francisco, California, 1926.
(Generally considered the best work on Drake's voyage)
2. The World Encompassed By Sir Francis Drake, Published by
The Hakluyt Society, London, 1854. (With a reproduction of
Hondius' Globe).
3. Life, Voyages and Exploits of Admiral Sir Francis Drake,
By John Barrow, Esquire. Published by John Murray,
London, 1843.
4. Sir Francis Drake, Julian Corbett. Published by Macmillan
and Co., London, 1894.
5. The Geographical Journal, June, 1903, pages 605-611.
The Royal Geographical Society, London.
6. The Land of Magellan, William S. Barclay. Published by
Brentano's, New York, undated.
7. Hydrographic Office Charts No. 0453 and No. 0454.

July 21, 1958

Dear Commander Harlow:

I appreciated receiving a copy of the letter you received from the Secretary of Defense relative to the Naval War College and to my work. You must have written a wonderful letter! However, as I told you when you were here I did not feel that there was much use in writing to the SecDef about my studies because the top command of the Navy had determined to fold this job, and fold it they would. I am pleased that you appreciate my work and feel that it should be continued. I think so myself as does everyone I have spoken to including many top ranking naval officers including Nimitz, Conolly, Carney, Stump and Wright, but that is as far as it goes!

It was nice to meet you and to note what a fine fellow you are! I certainly hope that in later years the Naval War College and I, even though not here, will see more of you.

With best regards and thanks for your efforts, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Commander A. Brooks Harlow, USNR
135 Broadway
New York, N. Y.

0161

July 28, 1958

Dear Commodore Rodriques:

This letter is to tell you of the great pleasure we all experienced when you visited the Naval War College and to, at the same time, thank you for your gracious gift, your lecture on Nelson's heroic life incorporated in book form.

Needless to say I found it not only interesting and diverting but very pertinent to the subject of "the commander". Certainly the character of the commander is a most important one and in your lecture you succeeded admirably in presenting several of the more important Nelsonian characteristics--notable his "initiative" and his "spirit of the offensive" to say nothing of his personal bravery. He was quite a man!

I hope that you will remember me most kindly to Captain Pereira who was with us last year.

With many thanks for the book, and with best regards,
I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES
Rear Admiral, USN (Ret)

Commodore M. M. Sarento Rodriques
Superintendent Portuguese Naval Academy
Lisbon, Portugal

0162

July 26, 1958

Dear Jack:

Today being Saturday and my retirement being scheduled for July 31, I thought that I would drop you a letter to tell you about it.

Very fortunately the Navy Department has agreed to let Captain Titus remain on active duty until December 31, and I am being permitted to work here on my own for no pay for a few months until the volume on Surigao Strait is finished. So, as regards all of that, I am happy enough. My great regret is, of course, that I don't think that the high command has any appreciation of what we are doing here, and of the importance of this work. A couple of years ago the officer in charge of strategic plans told me that he kept my books on his desk to be sure that they didn't make any mistakes like that again. This was enough for me and made me feel that my own work was worthwhile. That this condition exists today seems doubtful.

I am quite convinced that the decision just made to dissolve my section was done by a group which, unfortunately did not even look at any of my work. I obtained this idea from a Captain who knows. In fact I asked Don Felt if he had looked at my Volume III of the Battle for Leyte Gulf (my last volume), and he said "no" he was too busy. I then asked him how on earth he could make a recommendation to dissolve the section when he didn't even know what was being accomplished?

I have been told also, and this was by two or three very senior admirals who disapproved of the decision, that the section was being closed because (1) those who made the decision didn't want criticism even if it were objective, (2) they thought that enough battle lessons had been written already, (3) they didn't want anything to be said adversely of living senior flag officers at this time, and (4) of budgetary reasons.

As regards item (1) I have to say that this is not the viewpoint of Admirals Spruance, Nimitz, Carney, perhaps Kinkaid, perhaps Halsey, Stump, perhaps Wright, Conolly and numerous others. In fact the concern around this College during Global

0163

Strategy Discussions over the folding of this section was so strong that a number of reserve officers as well as civilians sounded off pretty strongly about it and wrote letters about it. The President of the Navy League of New York, Vice Admiral Holden, suggested that the Navy League of New York might take some action in this matter. It was even suggested that the Press was interested in all of this. However, I said that I would not take a stand in that I had spent my life in the Navy opposing political machination against the wishes of the high command, and I could not at this late moment change my "spots".

As regards item (2) the thought that there are enough battle lessons already is quite alien to the facts. Although there are certain lessons which pursue their way through battle after battle, such as "surprise", there are other lessons which only appear from time to time, i.e., Admiral Halsey's plan, when attacking Japan, to transmit over the Japanese commercial broadcast frequencies important facts likely unknown to the Japanese people, produced a fine battle lesson for future consideration. Note the tremendous effect of radio propaganda in the Middle East and the effects of the Voice of America and other voices including enemy. There is much to be learned as we move along.

As regards item (3) I haven't had any serious complaints from flag officers whose decisions I have found it necessary to disagree with. In fact they write me and when I meet them they are quite friendly. Why is this? It be because naval officers of consequence have the country's best interests at stake and realize that criticism from a friendly eye is preferable to what might be an unfriendly eye in the distant future. Admiral Spruance at first told me that he didn't approve of criticism while people were alive, but he later reversed his stand after he saw what I was doing. He wrote me a letter a few days ago telling me that he was very sorry indeed that my program was being closed before it was completed.

As regards item (4) budgetary reasons are important reasons and may have had a marked effect on those who were concerned with the final decision. However, this budgetary reason--and I got this from Dick Conolly--merely means that they do not have a proper appreciation down there of history nor of what I am contributing toward history. It is in general only those who have studied war in places like the Naval War College, such as yourself, who can appreciate the need for battle lessons of the past to guide those for the future.

I wrote to Admiral Beakley out in the western Pacific and mentioned this fact to him. I then remanded him that the Japanese had started the Russo-Japanese War by sinking the Russian ships at Port Arthur and Chemulpo without any previous warning, a recognition of which fact might have prevented Pearl Harbor.

I speak largely of strategy where the past has a more marked effect than it does on tactics, although my analyses produce many tactical battle lessons also of value to the future.

I feel that we have done a fine job here and I feel also that our work will receive approbation on that basis from future students of war. It, therefore, concerns me greatly to think that many senior officers did not see the need for the continuing study of history, and in this case naval history, and don't realize that the successful strategy of the future must be based in part on the lessons of the past.

Because of all this it was a great delight to me that the President of Long Island University and the Board of Trustees saw fit to honor me with a Doctor of Letters degree. It is too bad that it requires a civilian institution to recognize successful accomplishment in naval matters!

So much for all of this!

And now what I really wanted to write to you about is to tell you of how much I enjoyed my association with you at the Naval War College during the war, and of how much I have appreciated the assistance you have given me from time to time in helping my section to continue its work, and in helping the Naval War College through some rough times. Your help in making Global Strategy Discussions effective was of course very considerable.

With hopes that you will continue your interest in the Naval War College and will do all that you can to foster interest in the Navy, which includes historical studies of consequence and not propaganda novels, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

July 29, 1958

Dear Wickesie:

I asked your fair Marian for your address so that I could drop you a note about the "goings on" in this community and perhaps in the world.

In the first place Newport has been rather unhappy for some time because we have had continuous fog but now there is relief in sight. So, perhaps in a day or so it may be better and then all of us will be in good humor again.

I went to a dinner a couple of weeks ago at Zee Rust and it was very delightful. Marian had set the table beautifully with a green tablecloth and napkins with those famous white vases as center pieces and no flowers at all. It was quite effective! I am sure that everyone had a very fine time although all were regretful that you were not present. However, I think that everyone felt as I did, that so long as you were happy in France we would excuse your absence here.

The Navy has finally caught up with me so that as of midnight Thursday, that is in two days, I will return to the Retired List, having completed forty-seven years of active service. It is going to be a little difficult for me to reorient myself but, mentally, I am quite satisfied with the setup as I have been preparing for this for a long time. Every year the question has arisen whether I was to be carried on for another year and every year the decision has been yes. However, this year the decision was no, so the job which is about three-quarters finished is to be stopped right at the peak of its effectiveness. I blame this on a lack of appreciation of what we are doing here!

I will be in Newport until October anyway. What I will do after that I don't know. However, as of now I am not making any plans to live anywhere in particular.

0166

These are interesting days abroad, and I suppose that you are all watching the situation there and in the Middle East as closely as we all are here. Certainly our interests are largely parallel. Anyway with the possibility of a summit meeting in the air the press and the radio are well filled with it. Since General DeGaulle has taken a stand somewhat different from his major allies, I imagine the French press and radio are also filled with talk of it. We will see what happens!

It looks as though despite the possibility of a summit meeting the Congress will adjourn on August 9th. As one of the Senators said yesterday it is much better to have the Congress away from Washington so that the President can act with freedom. This could well be true, but the press will have their eye on him and so will endeavor to televise him unless the sessions are closed. So, everyone will be glued to their T.V. sets hoping to get a glimpse of what is happening.

The Newport weather has been terrible but no worse than elsewhere in this area. Fog with it heavy humidity, rain, heat--all together or separately--have been the bane of our existence. However, the forecasters are hopeful that we may finally get a good day shortly.

Your old friend, Muriel Adams, had such good luck with her horses that she entered Mark Anthony--who had just won a very good race--in a race against Bold Ruler (Eddie Arcaro up) but her horse came in last. John Adams is most displeased!

I certainly hope that all is well with you for you are a treasured friend of many of us. Please see to it that you take care of yourself in your beloved Normandie and return here when things are cooler temperature wise.

With best regards, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

R. W. BATES

Mr. Forsyth Wickes
Ahateau De Courtmulins
Caillon, Eure, France

0167

July 30, 1958

Dear Dick:

As this office has officially folded, although it will remain open until December 31st, and as I return to the Retired List tomorrow night, July 31st, I thought I would write you a letter to tell you how much I appreciate all the assistance you have rendered me here in this assignment. I want to thank you for the help you have given me not only as President of this War College, but in recent difficult days, when the process of dissolving the section was underway. Your help at that time was great and had it not been that the High Command in Washington chose to be blind, your letter alone would have been enough to retain the section in operation.

I have been told by Vice Admiral James (Reg) Kauffman that if the President of the Naval War College had taken a strong stand and had written a letter to the Secretary the matter would have been, to say the least, reviewed. Reg tells me that, although he didn't tell me before, that this came from the Secretary of the Navy--it did, in fact, come directly from the Secretary.

The answer to this is simple. The approach by everyone was wrong. While I can understand the necessity for following normal channels in general, in this case it was unwise because the hard-core group who were determined to fold this section was somewhere in the office of the Chief of Naval Operations or the Chief of Naval Personnel. In my mind it is they that started the whole thing.

I indirectly sounded out Admiral Ingersoll on several occasions as to what stand he was taking on this and he merely said he wanted me to finish the Battle of Surigao Strait. He thought to do more than that was unnecessary. The other day he made a somewhat more flat statement in the presence of Doctor John Kemble of Pomona College in Southern California. (You may remember Doctor Kemble as he was Professor of Military History here in 1952.) At this time Admiral Ingersoll said

0168

to the effect that when he was down in Washington he felt that they were anxious to fold up the section, and, therefore, he did not fight it too strongly as he largely concurred that we had enough of history, or words to that effect.

The Admiral and I got into a pretty serious discussion because the Admiral inferred that I didn't like Admiral Halsey, which is far from the truth. I told the Admiral that, as a matter of fact, in my volumes, Admiral Halsey, so far, had come off very well and that had I finished the Leyte series I could have presented all of the top commanders in a much better light than has been done elsewhere, because I had more of the facts. The Admiral then said he was just "pulling my leg".

I have endeavored throughout my entire naval career to be objective and certainly in my historical writings I have succeeded in so doing. In fact practically no commanders who have been critized by me have taken serious exception to my writings and, most, if not all, have remained my friends.

In my opinion the job should be reopened and the work continued, even though not in the Naval War College. Doctor Kemble, having heard the Admiral's remarks, was really astonished. He said that he thought, since he himself had reviewed part of my original work, that it should be continued and that it might be possible to obtain a grant from some foundation to continue the work so that budgetary difficulties, if any, would be done away with. I think his idea was that if I continued the job I would engage certain naval officers to assist me in it at some place, perhaps your college. As you remember Admiral Burke was sorry about the financial factor involved and inferred that by giving the contract to Long Island University the Navy Department would be compelled to provide the funds which they could not do.

I am glad to see that you are moving along successfully and have now appointed a Vice President of your university. I know that you had had that in view for a long time and I hope that the man you have chosen will be satisfactory. I suppose if he isn't you can always let him go prior to your own time of departure. I am sorry that I am getting on in years or I would have filed for that job myself. What a fine university you have! And, all done by you! Yours is destined to be one of the great national universities.

Let me wish you both all happiness in your present and future endeavors, and let me, once again, tell you I appreciate nothing more than the friendship you have given me over the years.

With best regards, I am, as ever,

Your old friend,

Admiral R. L. Conolly, USN (Ret)
President's Quarters
CW Post College, Long Island University
Brookville, Long Island, N. Y.

0170

July 31, 1958

Dear Hutch:

Today I am retiring from the United States Naval Service and my work here is being closed off before completion. This is explained as because of budgetary pressures.

I thought that you might be interested in a little about this. I retired in 1949 for physical disability and I was called back to active duty within two months to write the analysis of the Battle for Leyte Gulf. I have been working on this for the past seven or eight years and have finished four volumes of the Battle and three other volumes which include the Battles of the Coral Sea, Midway and Savo Island. I have made films of these battles which have been highly successful. They are a new technique developed by myself and everyone who has seen them has been quite impressed.

Today the whole Naval War College staff presented me with a beautiful combination thermometer, clock and barometer, all in a mahogany housing with a most charming inscription in brass attached thereto.

I am sending you herewith an item thereon--two newspaper clippings from the Newport Daily News and the Providence Journal. This will give you an idea of the friendly manner in which the community has viewed my retirement. Another item thereon is my degree of Doctor of Letters presented by Long Island University. The citation is very nice and I will be happy to send you a copy if you want it.

I don't know what I am going to do after I retire although, for the present, I am going to work at the College at no cost to the Government to finish my last volume which is almost done. Needless to say I have thoroughly enjoyed my naval career and I wouldn't have given it up for anything else.

The President of the Naval War College, Vice Admiral S.H. Ingersoll, gave me a large party the other day and well over 100 people showed up. That, in itself, was extremely nice, so, all in all, all is well.

0171

I am sending this to you so you can do anything with it you want. But, since I am the last officer on active duty in the Navy from the Class I think it well that you know about it.

I certainly hope that you and Heather are in fine shape and are enjoying Annapolis.

The weather up here has been terrible and I have been quite upset about it, as with my heart condition it slows me to a walk.

With best regards to you both and with regrets that I am folding after completing forty-seven years instead of fifty, and with hopes that I shall be able to reorient myself to this new life as well as you have, I am, as ever,

Your old friend and classmate,

R. W. BATES

Commo. M. W. Hutchinson, Jr., USN (Ret)
6 Acton Place
Annapolis, Maryland

0172

August 21, 1958

Dear Anne:

I was awfully sorry that you and John were unable to accept Vice Admiral and Mrs. Ingersoll's invitation to their party given in my honor. It was too bad. However, with such bad fog conditions I think that you were certainly wise not to attempt to make it. In a selfish way I am glad that you did not come because had you come I never would have received from you that wonderful letter which, naturally, I shall treasure over the years remaining to me.

You are quite right in my affection for the Navy. I suppose that if I had not had such an affection I might well have married, or something. But, I married the Navy instead and I can say that I am not particularly unhappy about it. I should have liked to have had some children to carry on my "line" but perhaps it is just as well that I endeavored to give some of that virility to my country.

What you have said about me in this letter is, in a large way, symbolic of both you and John. You have meant in the past, and mean now, a great deal to the New England community and especially to the local community which you have honored by your presence. You have also contributed a lot to the National scene for John was a fine Assistant Secretary of the Navy and it was my hope that he would decide to go higher in the political field, but unfortunately for the United States he chose to do otherwise.

You, Anne, are a wonderful woman and everyone feels that it is the team of Anne and John rather than each individually which make the Brown name so beloved. It is a fine thing for us all to see a family of great social consequence such as yours measure up to the heavy requirements of its position. So far as I can see your children

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are imbued with all of the honor and character which you and John represent so well and which one doesn't find too often among people of similar social levels. I can think of many of the great names of America and their spoiled heirs and I sometimes wonder if it is worth it.

I have not made any decision as to what I am going to do in the future. I am not really looking for a job but rather I am interested in my reactions after forty-seven years in the Navy. I may decide to remain in Newport at least part of the time.. Everyone has been quite insistent that I do so and perhaps I will. My main objection to all of this is the weather which with its humidity is not very helpful to my equanimity.

For the present I am still working at the War College on my last book which I did not complete. Naturally I am on my own at no cost to the Government. I hope to see it finished presently.

Once again let me thank you very much indeed for your very understanding letter and let me once again say that I missed you both greatly.

With great affection, I am, a seewer,

Your old friend,